



LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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To: Dr. Joel Boyd, Superintendent of Schools
From: Dr. James Hall, Chief Operating Officer
Date: October 1, 2021
Re: ESSER Spending- Transportation

The reduced supply of drivers caused by COVID-19 has had a particularly large impact on busing. It has resulted in almost a daily re-routing and adjustment of routes. These issues have made it challenging to keep up with the dynamics of our transportation needs. In order to act to reduce some of these concerns and to improve responsiveness, I recommend that we deploy an additional position within the Transportation office. Adding an additional Account Clerk (6A) and/or an Assistant Director of Transportation have been analyzed. I recommend hiring an additional Account Clerk at this time. An Account Clerk would be approximately \$35,000-\$40,000 less than an Assistant Director of Transportation. The Director of Transportation supports the hiring of an Account Clerk at this time.

Our Director of Transportation is one of the most experienced Directors within the Commonwealth and his skill and experience have allowed us to maintain operations to this point. While he has done a commendable job within this challenging environment, it is not practicable to expect him to keep up this pace for much longer. Framingham is most similar. Framingham has a Director, Assistant Director, and two clerks. Presently, we have a Director and one Account Clerk.

I have provided data in Exhibit A in regard to how similarly situated districts are staffing transportation.

Summary:

Request an additional Account Clerk (6A) be authorized for posting for the Transportation Office in order to help meet increasing transportation needs and challenges in this COVID-19 impacted environment. I have discussed this with SEIU and it is in agreement with the additional position.

Exhibit A

	Framingham	Worcester	Lowell
Students transported	-6700 student transported through NRT, including 300 IEP specialized transportation requests. -Transport 100 or so PreK, including midday runs -66 buses/routes- 385 runs on a 3-tier structure (typically 77 buses)	8,000 regular ed students (in-City) 2,000 special needs (in-City)	-7400 regular ed -950 Special Education In-district -125 out of district
Transportation Personnel	-Director -Assistant Director (responsible for routing and student assignment) -2 Clerks, one language based/both responsible for maintaining the flow of data and communication to families.	-Director of Transportation -Assistant Director -Operations supervisor -3 Transportation Liaisons <hr/> Personnel to support own internally owed/run bus routes Trainer/Safety -Supervisor -Router (Big Bus) -Router (Special Needs) Note: Worcester uses 85 large buses from Durham Transportation and self-runs its own 36 in-house Special Needs busing	-Transportation Director -Clerk (6A)